port bringing out discrimination against women workers in India in the matter of wage-bill, and health--care and suggesting measures for the improvements in their conditions; and

(b) if so, what were the main observations and suggestions made in the World Bank Report regarding the condition of women labourers in India and improvements therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The World Bank Report on Gender and Poverty in India (1991) covers within the scope of its study areas such as women's status and role in agricultural and non-agricultural sectors like dairing, forestry and the urban informal sector; women's access to social services like education, health, nutrition and family care ; the institutional context of efforts made by Government and the NGOs to reach women. Some of the major observations made in the report are that despite their statistical 'invisibility' women are vital and productive workers in Indian economy, the poorer the family the more it depends for its survival on the women's earnings; that India invests less in its women workers than their male counter-parts; that women receive a smaller share of the social services in terms of health-care, education and productive assets. It further observes that there is a shift in the trend followed in the past where programmes targeted women as passive beneficiaries and also the gap between male and female agricultural wage rates have narrowed. The suggestions made include viewing women as economic actors and enhancing their capacity for earning, increasing their access to education and technical training on a massive scale as also their access to institutional credit and supportive services for health, child-care and family planning, group formation and advocacy.

Recommendations of ILO report on employment generation

4355. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report about the International Labour Organisation (ILO) published in the Hindustan Times of 4th April, 1994 under the caption 'Reforms need human face';

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations of the ILO Report particularly relating to employment, generation and poverty alleviation ; and

(c) what are the details of the recommendations which Government have so far considered and accepted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Report titled "India : Employment, Poverty and Economic Policies", prepared under a Project sponsored by the UNDP under Technical Support Services, has observed that the stabilisation measures have induced industrial recession and have involved outs in public expenditure on anti-poverty programmes. The report has pointed out that "both the level of underemployment and the incidence of poverty have very probably increased since 1991 although this cannot be empirically confirmed". The Government is aware of any possible adverse consequences of economic reforms in the short-run and has, therefore followed a conssious policy to minimise the social cost of reforme. Following the manoeuvrability gained through overall fiscal correction allocations for social sectors and poverty alevi-ation programmes were significantly stepped up during 1993-94. The 1994-95 Budget carries forward this process of higher allocations for social sectors, rural development and anti-poverty programmes. Government's success in bringing down the rate of inflation since 1991 would have benefited the poor.

Banning the use of child labour in carpet factory

4356. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :